

## **Police Department**

### **Mission and Value Statement**

The Reading Police Department is committed to providing the highest level of public safety and service to the citizens and business people within the community. The members of the Department are empowered to enforce the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and By-laws of the Town of Reading to ensure that the peace and tranquility of our neighborhoods are maintained and that crime and the fear of crime are reduced. We emphasize and value integrity, honesty, impartiality and professionalism from our members in order to create an environment that values differences and fosters fairness and flexibility in our mission. We encourage citizen input and interaction that will assist us in developing sound partnerships between the community and police. Working together we can protect our future and enhance the quality of life for everyone within the town.

This report summarizes the participation, activities, sponsorships, enhancements, accomplishments, and other notable events of the Reading Police Department in Calendar year 2014.

### **Personnel Changes**

The following personnel changes and adjustments were experienced by the Police Department in calendar year 2014:

#### **April 2014**

- Lieutenant Peter Garchinsky retired after 33 ½ years of service.
- Sergeant Detective Mark D. Segalla was promoted to Deputy Chief.
- Dispatcher Christina Paterno resigned to become a police officer in New Hampshire.
- Officer Michael Bouvier resigned to take a position with the Lowell Police Department.

#### **June 2014**

- Dispatcher Matthew Vatcher was hired as a police officer and began his academy training in June at the Lowell Police Academy.

#### **July 2014**

- Sergeants Richard Abate and David Clark were promoted to Lieutenant. Officer Patrick Silva, Safety Officer Christine Amendola, Officer Christopher Jones and School Resource Officer Corey Santasky were promoted to Sergeant in the Department's new re-organization.
- Due to the promotions, Officer Savio was appointed as the Safety Officer and Officer Michael Muolo was appointed as the School Resource Officer.
- Matthew Orr and Kaylyn Gooley were hired as new Police Officers. Both were previously academy trained. Both were assigned to the Night Shift after completing the Field Training Officer (FTO) Program.
- Officer Sean Wilson was assigned to the Day Shift.

#### **November 2014**

- Officer John Edson resigned.
- Officer Michael Fitzgerald was assigned to the Detective Division

- Officer Ian Nelson transferred to the Day Shift.

### **Awards, Recognitions and Other Noteworthy Events**

May 2014

- The Board of Selectmen recognized National Police Memorial Week.

December 2014

- AAA Southern New England presented the Reading Police Department with three awards: 1) The Gold Award of Excellence – recognizes achievements in traffic safety, 2) Nine consecutive years without a pedestrian fatality, and 3) Safety Officer David Savio was named AAA Traffic Safety Hero of the Year.

### **Community Policing**

The Reading Police Department continues to work closely with the community and other Town Departments, as well as State and Federal Agencies. The Police Department strongly promotes the philosophy of “working with the community”. The Department sponsors or participates in a number of community events and/or programs.

The following are a number of those.

- The Police Department continues to be an active member the Reading Coalition Against Substance Abuse (RCASA). Chief James Cormier and School Resource Officer Michael Muolo are members of the RCASA.
- The Police Department collaborated with RCASA and was awarded grant funding that enables the Department to conduct alcohol compliance checks. The Detective Division has worked closely with the RCASA to be trained and implement alcohol compliance checks throughout the community.
- The Police Department is represented on the Human Relations Advisory Committee (HRAC) by Deputy Chief Segalla.
- In June, the Department participated in Friends and Family Day held at Birch Meadow.
- The Department participates annually in the Library’s Vehicle Day in August, where children of all ages get to enjoy the Town vehicles of the community.
- Throughout the year, the Department participated in the Governor’s Highway Safety Bureau’s “Click-it or Ticket” program. This program is an intensified traffic enforcement effort subsidized by a grant that targets specific traffic issues, such as seat belt use or impaired operation.
- In October, the Department in conjunction with its labor unions organized its annual Senior Ham and Bean Supper at the Senior Center.
- In December, the Department in conjunction with its labor unions organized the 34th annual Children’s Holiday Party at Austin Preparatory School. Again collaborating with the Free Masons (Reading Lodge) to offer the Child Identification Program (CHIP) providing over 50 identification kits.
- The Department’s Web Site - <http://www.readingma.gov/police-department>, Facebook and Twitter pages are very successful and offers a variety of information for the public.
- Officer David Savio replaced Sgt. Christine Amendola in the Safety Officer role.
- Highlights of presentations and traffic assistance follow:

- Safety presentations conducted at Cobblestone Family Day Care, Little Treasures Pre-School, Joshua Eaton School, and for various Cub Scout packs.
  - Safety literature was provided to all of the Elementary School Principals for key points in their weekly news bulletins. Topics included bicycle safety, snow safety, and stranger safety.
  - Traffic assistance was provided for The Barrows School Fun Run, Joshua Eaton School Jaguar Jog, and The Downtown Trick or Treat.
  - Signage improvements were installed in the driveway of the Killam School and in the driveway of the Birch Meadow School (One Way and Do Not Enter Signs).
- Community Service Officer James Collins gave a safety talk to the Low Vision Group at the Senior Center.
  - School Resource Officer Muolo participated in the Reading Memorial High School Health Fair.
  - In September, the Police Department was actively involved in the planning and successful implementation of the sixth annual Fall Street Faire. The Faire continues to be a huge success.
  - In September, the Department was awarded a grant to participate in the Governor's Highway Safety Bureau's Pedestrian Crosswalk Safety Initiative (\$3000). An officer in plain clothes and a uniformed officer worked in tandem stopping motorists who failed to yield to the officer in the crosswalk in an effort to raise awareness and educate the motoring public on crosswalk safety. The two crosswalk decoy programs in September of 2014 yielded 27 issued citations and 1 arrest.

### **Patrol Division**

The Reading Police Patrol Division is the core of policing services in the Town of Reading. The Patrol Division falls under the command of Lieutenant David Stamatis during daytime operations and Lieutenant David Clark on nights. The Patrol Division is comprised of 2 Sergeants and 8 Patrol Officers during the day; and 8 Sergeants and 15 Patrol Officers on nights. It currently operates a marked fleet of 5 Ford Crown Victoria style and 3 Ford SUV style cruisers as well as unmarked units. In addition to standard patrol vehicles, the Reading Police Department's Patrol Division also uses 7 pedal bikes.

The Patrol Division is the most visible section of the police department, providing around the clock service to the citizens and visitors of Reading. They are the uniformed officers who provide the first line of defense for the public's safety. Each law enforcement patrol officer works to protect life and property, uphold the civil rights of individuals, preserve public peace, provide citizen assistance, enforce criminal and motor vehicle laws, and respond to emergency situations. These are dedicated and committed professionals who place their lives and well-being in jeopardy for the citizens of Reading on a daily basis.

The men and women of the Patrol Division are responsible for; enforcing state and municipal laws and regulations designed to protect life and property; maintain order in an assigned sector or beat; patrol the community to preserve the peace and to prevent crime; take criminal reports and interview witnesses and suspects; apprehend fugitives and criminals; collect evidence and

give testimony in court; conduct investigations for all misdemeanor and many felony cases; direct traffic, issue traffic citations, investigate accidents, and make arrests; participate in crime prevention, public information, and safety programs. Patrol officers maintain closer contact with the public than any other section of the police department.

Most likely, the first person you will see when you are in need of the police will be the patrol officer. The men and women of the Reading Police Department's Patrol Division take great pride in serving the citizens of Reading. It is important to realize that in a split second, the most inconsequential and routine activity can develop into a potentially hazardous situation. Without question, the Patrol Division is the backbone of the police department. In 2014, the Patrol Division issued 5,299 moving violations, made 134 arrests and answered 14,209 calls for service throughout the Reading Community.

### **Detective Division**

The Detective Division is the liaison of the Police Department with the Reading Public Schools, Austin Preparatory School as well as the Northeast Regional Vocational School in Wakefield.

- In January the Detective Division activated the Reading Police Departments Facebook Page. Currently we have 1,260 followers. In addition, the Division had been maintaining the Department's Twitter page. The Twitter page currently has 4,267 followers, up from 2,336 in 2013. Besides those that follow us directly, our messages get shared to thousands more on a regular basis. These pages allow the Department to get important public safety information out quickly including information on; road closures, special events, press releases, weather related concerns, Level 3 Sex Offender notifications, and safety tips. They also give citizens another way to interact and send messages to us.
- The Detective Division conducted alcohol compliance checks of all licenses and party patrols to identify intoxicated youth throughout the year. In August, 24 liquor license locations were checked with zero violations for 'sale to a minor'.
- The Detective Division handles all court matters, including processing the court paperwork for all arrests, summons, hearings, restraining orders, citation appeals, and any other pertinent issues that deal with the court. The Division makes all officer notifications for court appearances, gives information on the status of on-going cases. In addition, the Division is responsible for all discovery requests by the Commonwealth and Defense. All juvenile cases that meet the standard for diversion are monitored to make sure all of the obligations set forth for the juvenile are met.
- Detectives processed over 200 anonymous tips via the Department's Text-a-Tip program.
- In the Spring of 2014, the School Resource Officer conducted opiate prevention workshops with RCASA in all freshman Decisions classes and underage drinking prevention in all 11 grade Health issues classes.
- In the Spring of 2014, the School Resource Officer promoted safe party prevention for 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> graders to reduce underage drinking and impaired driving at student assemblies.



- The Detective Division began a coordinated effort to properly track and account for drug overdose deaths that occur in, and out of town that involve Reading Residents.
- In August the School Resource Officer partnered with RCASA and the Athletic Director to train 62 captains and club leaders in leadership development/substance abuse prevention.
- SRO participated in monthly RCASA Board of Directors meetings and quarterly special events.
- The SRO and Detective Division held numerous ALICE (Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, Evacuate) trainings with all school personal and conducted ALICE drills in each school in the district and Austin Prep. The philosophy of ALICE is to use technology and information in a way so that staff and students can make informed decisions. In a crisis, this program recommends removing as many people as possible from the danger zone.
- Detectives worked in conjunction with RCASA to collect and properly destroy prescription drugs through the "RX Round-up" program. Since the program was developed in November of 2009, over 15,754 bottles of prescription and over the counter drugs have been collected. In 2014, 4,900 bottles were collected. This was a 20% increase from the previous year.
- Detectives fingerprint residents for business purposes upon request.
- In October a member of the Detective Division was reassigned to work with The FBI Boston Strike Force.
- In November the Detective Division added a second Detective to be primarily assigned to narcotic investigations. This new Detective also became a member of the "Southern Middlesex Regional Drug Task Force".
- The Detective Division executed three separate search warrants of buildings during 2014. As a result of those search warrants, three arrests were made. In addition they led to the seizure of numerous drugs and currency.
- Major crimes the Detective Division investigated this past year included sexual assaults/rapes, B&E's, larcenies, sudden deaths/suicides, domestic violence, ABDW, child/elder abuse and cyber-crimes. In addition, the Detective Division reviews all patrol reports, and conducts investigations on numerous other types of crimes.
- The Detective Division developed numerous informants in order to obtain information on various crimes being committed.
- The Detective Division registers and monitors all Level 1 and Level 2 Sex Offenders that live and/or work in Town. In addition, Detective's makes the required community wide notifications.
- Members of the Detective Division attended many training programs in the areas of, cybercrime investigation, search warrant preparation, domestic violence, drug and narcotics investigatory techniques, legal updates, and prosecution.

- The Detective Division reviews all new/renewal or change in manger applications for Alcohol Licenses or any modifications for existing licenses. In addition, numerous Class 2 Licenses (License to buy, sell, exchange or assemble second hand motor vehicles or parts), Livery Licenses, Precious Metal License, and Auctioneer's License which are submitted to the Town.
- The Detectives Division conducted background checks on 4 dispatcher hires and 3 police officer hires.

Detective Criminal Investigations = 151

### **Public Safety Dispatch**

The Reading Public Safety Dispatchers provide, through communications, a lifeline for the community, Police Officers and Firefighters. Eight full time dispatchers are under the direct supervision of Head Dispatcher Victoria Avery and under the command of the Day Shift Patrol Division Commander Lt. David Stamatis. Dispatchers receive requests for information and services, then triage those requests based on available resources and disseminate those requests to the emergency personnel in the field. Dispatchers greet the public entering the police station and provide a valuable service to our community.

Each year, Dispatchers attend various training seminars to expand their knowledge and provide a higher level of service.

Dispatchers issued 4,087 Community Access Stickers. The Dispatch Corps are the face of Reading Public Safety. In most cases, they are the first interaction the public has with a Public Safety agency.

### **Crossing Guards**

The school crossing guards are part-time, civilian personnel. Currently there are nineteen permanently assigned crossing guards and eight spares. They fill in when a regular crossing guard is unable to cover his/her post. They are under the direct supervision, coordination, and control of Safety Officer David Savio. Each crossing guard plays an essential role in the safe commute of children to and from school. They also serve as an extra set of eyes and ears for the police department and the community as well. These crossing guards have proven to be devoted to their duties and are a great asset to the Town of Reading.

### **Animal Control**

The Animal Control Officer is Ronald Burns and he works 13 hours per week and is on call for emergency situations. There were more than 400 calls for service received by the Animal Control Officer. There were 14 dog bites over the year resulting in injuries to humans. There were 12 dog to dog bites resulting in veterinary care. There were 18 bites over the year resulting from animal of unknown origin (14 dogs and 4 cats). There was 1 cat bite to a human reported. Those that tested negative for rabies were quarantined for 10 days. There were over 10 coyote sightings reported. Over 300 citations were issued to residents for failure to keep their dog on a leash, failure to license their dog, for biting and disturbing the peace. The majority of the calls were received from neighbors complaining about other dogs. There was one bat call which tested positive for rabies. One opossum was euthanized but did not test positive for rabies.

The Animal Control Officer is authorized to isolate and confine domestic animals suspected of being exposed to rabies. Acting according to state regulations and guidelines, Animal Control Officers must:

- Investigate reports of domestic animals exposed to rabies.
- Determine if the domestic animal has or may have been exposed to a rabid animal, and if the domestic animal has been properly vaccinated.
- Make an evaluation of the exposure of the vaccinated animal and prescribe the appropriate action according to state regulations.
- Obtain permission to euthanize exposed, unvaccinated animals from their owners or from the Massachusetts Department of Food and Agriculture. ( MDFA)
- Carry out euthanasia permitted by the animal owner or MDFA.
- Collect the head of the euthanatized animal and deliver or send it to MDPH State Laboratory Institute, if the animal has bitten or otherwise exposed a human or domestic animal.
- Inspect residential kennels that house 4 or more dogs.
- Ensure that vaccinated domestic animals receive a booster vaccination if needed, and that the animal remains under appropriate strict confinement or isolation.
- Contact local officials when exposed domestic animals have exposed humans.

Although the Animal control Officer is not responsible for handling wildlife calls, he evaluates such calls and assists where possible. He provides contact numbers for the appropriate State or private agency to handle wildlife issues beyond the Town's control.

#### **Parking Enforcement Officer**

The Parking Enforcement Officer is Ronald Burns. He works 18 hours per week. The major responsibilities of the Parking Enforcement Officer are:

- Identify and cite motorists who violate Reading's parking regulations and reduce opportunities for violations to be committed through preventive patrols of all parking areas.
- Tally and inventory tickets daily.
- Identify parking problem areas within the town and forward this information to the Safety Officer.
- Perform related duties as required.
- Total citations issued by the Parking Enforcement Officer in 2014 were 1,274
- Total citations issued by police officers in 2014 were 573
- Total income from parking citations is \$46,910
- 87% of the citations were paid
- 7% of the citations were marked for non-payment.

The following is the Department Roster, a statistical analysis of our enforcement efforts and a record of revenues generated by our department for calendar year 2014.

**READING POLICE DEPARTMENT  
2014 ROSTER**

**CHIEF**

James W. Cormier

**DEPUTY CHIEF**

Mark D. Segalla

**LIEUTENANTS**

Richard W. Robbins  
David M. Stamatis      David J. Clark

**SERGEANTS**

Mark J. O'Brien	John J. McKenna	Christopher R. Picco
Kevin M. Brown	Christine M. Amendola	Christopher E. Jones
Patrick R. Silva	Corey P. Santasky	

**DETECTIVE DIVISION**

Lt. Det. Richard Abate

Detectives:	Michael D. Saunders	Derek R. Holmes
	Pasquale M. Iapicca	Michelle E. Halloran
	Robert J. MacHugh Jr	Michael P. Fitzgerald

School Resource Officer:      Michael A. Muolo

**SUPPORT SERVICES**

<u>Community Service Officer</u>	<u>Safety Officer</u>	<u>Armorer/Fleet Maintenance</u>
James P. Collins	David V. Savio	Justin P. Martel

**PATROL OFFICERS**

Joseph J. Belmonte	Matthew B. Vatcher	Laura M. Bullis	Anthony F. Caturello
Patrick A. Dawley	Erik W. Drauschke	Sean M. Wilson	Matthew C. Edson
Michael S. Scouten	Keith D. Hurley	Matthew J. Orr	Salvi A. Lavita



Mark R. Mullen	Michael R. Lee	Ian A. Nelson	Kaylyn A. Gooley
Kristen L. Stasiak	Christopher J. Voegelin		

**Reading Police Department  
2014 Ancillary Personnel**

**CLERKS**

Administrative Assistant Victoria Cummings  
Administrative Secretary Joanne Power

**DISPATCHERS**

Head Dispatcher Victoria Avery

Christopher Finnegan	Debra Haynes	Ryan Mahoney	Joseph Pagnotta
Regina Saunders	Susan Tapley		

**SCHOOL CROSSING GUARDS**

(s=Spare)

Cindy Asci	Mildred Barton	Bob Bent	John Cain	Claude Miller (s)
Bob Dewolfe	Art Dickinson	Peg Faulkner	Mary Fitzgerald (s)	James Hubbard
Gerry Intonti (s)	Lucy Intonti	Tina Lantz	Marsha Leighton	Ann Lipchus
Joe Lopiccolo	Louann MacKinnon	Kris McNiel	Dick Prudente	Al Sletterink
George Snow (s)	Robert Matarazzo (s)	Lynn Upton (s)	Mike Upton (s)	Joe Veno (s)
Rosemary Violante	Barbara Wilson			

**ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER / PARKING ENFORCEMENT OFFICER**

Ronald Burns

**Service Statistics calendar year 2014:**

▪ Arrests	134
▪ Protective Custody	58
▪ Motor Vehicle Citations	5299
▪ Parking Violations	1274
▪ Detective Criminal Investigations	151
▪ Automobile Crashes Investigated	554

**Fees Collected calendar year 2014**

▪ License to Carry Permits	\$ 4,050.00
▪ Firearm Identification Cards	\$ 450.00
▪ Police Reports Copied	\$ 3,017.00
▪ Parking Fines	\$ 46,910.00
▪ Administrative Fees for details	\$ 38,623.00
▪ Community Access Stickers	\$ 83,405.00
▪ Parking Space Rentals	\$ 34,100.00
▪ Civil Motor Vehicle Infractions	\$ 39,948.50
▪ Community Room Rental fee	\$ 960.00
▪ Motor Vehicle Lease Surcharge	\$ 2,746.00

**Conclusion**

To summarize our Mission Statement, we are empowered to enforce the laws of our land, but in order to do this appropriately and adequately we have to work with the community. Providing the community with the highest level of police service is a goal that will require dedication, hard work and a strong commitment to and from our community.

I want to thank the citizens of our community for their support and cooperation. Working with the community your police department will accomplish its mission.

Respectfully submitted,

*James W. Cormier*

James W. Cormier  
Chief of Police

## **READING COALITION AGAINST SUBSTANCE ABUSE (RCASA)**

### **Staff**

The RCASA staff included two full time employees. The Director oversaw personnel, fiscal management, public relations, and coordinated coalition work, including planning, training, communication, data collection, dissemination, reporting, and evaluation. The Outreach Coordinator coordinated project services and activities, including communication and information dissemination. As a Licensed Alcohol and Drug Counselor, the Outreach Coordinator supported residents impacted by substance use disorders. A new part-time Youth Coordinator will join the RCASA team in 2015, supported by new grant funds.

### **Leadership**

The 24-member Board of Directors met monthly to accomplish critical tasks including data gathering, outreach, and leadership development. Adult and student representatives provided valuable status reports on initiatives. New members appointed in the spring included Adam Bakr (RMHS), Officer Michael Muolo, John Halsey (Selectman), and Sherri VandenAkker (Parent, Documentary Filmmaker). In June and August, the Town Manager, Chief of Police, Deputy Chief, Elaine Webb, and Pat Shannon met with members of the Zoning Advisory Committee to review the options for potential zoning of medical marijuana dispensaries. The options presented included placement in the industrial zone near Walkers Brook Drive with a buffer zone from schools or places where children gather. Board leaders participated in additional ZAC meetings and issued a letter in support of the 500sq foot zoning by-law, which Town Meeting approved in September. In September, the RCASA Nominating Committee also conducted officer elections and reported roster changes at their Annual Meeting.

### **Professional Development**

The Director was submitted as Candidate for the new Certified Prevention Specialist credential through the MA Board of Substance Abuse Counselor Certification. The credential required completion of 100 hours of continuing education in prevention practice, theory, ethics courses; 2,000 hours of substance abuse experience; and competency in Planning, Evaluation; Skill Development; Community Organization; Public Policy, and Environmental Change. The Outreach Coordinator was renewed as a Licensed and Certified Alcohol and Drug Counselor.

### **Regional Connections**

The Outreach Coordinator participated as a judge for the Middlesex Partnerships for Youth PSA Contest through the DA's Office and as an expert panelist at Wakefield's opioid abuse forum in April. A team from Newburyport Public Schools visited Reading to learn more about the School District and RCASA on May 20 and met with the RCASA Director to learn more about the Chemical Health Education program. The Reading Public Schools, MA Advocates for Children and Lesley University co-sponsored a conference for 13 Safe and Supportive Schools grantees on June 3. The RCASA Director was on the event panel to share behavioral health initiatives. The Mystic Valley Public Health Coalition involving the communities of Malden, Medford, Melrose, Reading, Stoneham and Wakefield continued their opioid prevention and intervention project. Reading benefits from the collaborative through access to data, capacity building and training. The regional team presented their needs assessment results to all six communities involved in the spring. State Senator Jason Lewis, in partnership with the Mystic